



Joint Modeling & Simulation Capability Working Group

M&S Support of Afghanistan Operations

Worldwide Joint Training
and Scheduling Conference



MAJ Joe Nolan

Chief, Technical Development and Innovation Branch
J7, Joint Warfighting Center
U.S. Joint Forces Command

Purpose



- To provide an information briefing on how USJFCOM, J7 is working with the Army and a deploying unit (1-38 CAV SQDN) to provide a modeling and simulation capability in support of operations

Outline



- Background
- Fielded Capability
- Additional Support
- Bottom Line

Background



- JWFC's Technical Development and Innovation Branch has a Terrain Services capability that is able to provide simulation terrain databases to customers and stakeholders
- The Army's XVIII Airborne Corps Battle Command Training Center (BCTC) has used Joint Training Data Services and the Terrain Services capability for VBS2 databases
- In November 2009 the BCTC requested JWFC support for the development of Afghanistan VBS2 terrain databases and for a capability to support 1-38 CAV SQDN operational and mission rehearsal events while deployed in Afghanistan

Fielded Capability



- JWFC, with funding from the Joint Advanced Concepts Program and personnel from the Joint Simulation System Program delivered a gaming solution that allows 1-38 CAV to execute mission rehearsal events and analyze tactical courses of action
- JWFC fielded 1-38 CAV with preconfigured and tested:
 - 12 VBS2 gaming stations
 - 1 spare VBS2 gaming station
 - 2 servers
 - 4 GPS cameras for data collection
 - 1 additional hard drive per gaming station (provided by PEO-STRI)
 - VBS2 software (provided by PEO-STRI)
 - Geo-specific Afghanistan databases with geo-typical buildings
 - Additional Afghanistan databases (provided by Canada)

Additional Support



- The BCTC provided training to 1-38 CAV soldiers to ensure that they knew how to set up and run the capability
- JWFC provided training on how to use the digital cameras to conduct field data collection
- The Terrain Services team will provide a reachback capability in order to enhance VBS2 terrain databases:
 - 1-38 CAV forwards digital photos to Terrain Services Team
 - Terrain Services team build terrain database and forwards to 1-38 CAV

Conclusion



- In garrison, 1-38 CAV Squadron Commander personally oversaw VBS2 training and conducted every After Action Review. The commander is enthusiastic about the use of M&S and sees how M&S and gaming tools can be used to support operations in Afghanistan
- It is very rare where an officer has these qualifications (position, rank, experience, and aptitude) to push M&S into the operational realm and thereby expand its usage tremendously
- VBS2 is a unique tool that provides both a realistic training and operational capability and is simple enough that soldiers can operate



QUESTIONS?